

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03238 011251Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 IO-13 AID-05 PM-05 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /074 W

-----029338 011254Z /53

P 011220Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8204

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3238

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, ID, RP

SUBJECT: ROMULO'S COMMENTS ON ASEAN SECRETARIAT

1. PHILIPPINE FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO, TRANSITING SINGAPORE ON HIS WAY TO THE KUALA LUMPUR ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING, POURED COLD WATER ON THE INDONESIAN PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING BY THE STRAITS TIMES, HE SAID THAT "ASEAN DECISIONS ARE TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES THROUGH THEIR ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES IN THE APPROPRIATE FORUMS. AT NO TIME HAS IT BEEN REQUIRED, AND THE OCCASION HAS NOT YET ARISEN, WHEN THIS PEROGATIVE COULD BE ASSIGNED TO ANY OTHER AUTHORITY THAN THE DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER STATES."

2. COMMENT: INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK'S PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE THE SECRETARIAT RECEIVED SOME SUPPORT IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING THE TENTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING, BUT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT IN CLOSED SESSIONS THE OTHER FOUR ASEAN COUNTRIES RESISTED ANY REAL STRENGTHENING

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 03238 011251Z

OF THE SECRETARIAT. THEY APPARENTLY SAW THE PROPOSALS AS A MOVE TO STRENGTHEN NOT SO MUCH THE SECRETARIAT AS INDONESIA'S POSITION IN ASEAN, SINCE THE SECRETARIAT AS INDONESIA'S POSITION IN ASEAN, SINCE THE SECRETARIAT IS LOCATED IN JAKARTA AND HEADED BY AN INDONESIAN, DHARSONO. A MORE POWERFUL SECRETARIAT COULD BE USED BY INDONESIA TO SHIFT THE DIRECTION OF ASEAN DEVELOPMENT AWAY FROM ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND MORE

TOWARD POLITICAL AND SECURITY MATTERS. (INCIDENTALLY,
WE HAVE HEARD INDONESIA'S PROPOSED DURING TENTH MINISTERIAL
MEETING THAT DHARSONO'S TERM BE EXTENDED FOR TWO MORE YEARS,
BUT DO NOT KNOW THE OUTCOME OF THIS PROPOSAL.)

3. IN THE SAME INTERVIEW, ROMULO WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING
THAT THE ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE
ORGANIZATION'S ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY UNDER THE FOREIGN MINIS-
TERS. (WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT INDONESIA WISHED TO
ABOLISH THE STANDING COMMITTEE.)
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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